

## **Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes - Final September 19, 2007**

**In Attendance:** Sheri Baron, Christine Carney, Victoria Cohen, Joseph Curro, Christine Deshler, Jorge Loayza, Nick Minton, Nancy Rhoads, Marlene Schultz, Nancy Sweeney, Bill Shea

**Absent:** Marliisa Briggett, Mahendra Desai

### **Review of August Minutes**

Tabled until next meeting

**Citizens Open Forum** – The commissioners reviewed letters from the Armenian community expressing their opinions on the No Place For Hate program – many Arlington residents and others attended the Open Forum and recommended that the Town and AHRC consider rejecting any affiliation with the ADL sponsored program and made a strong argument for their cause. The chair thanked all for coming and for their very thoughtful presentation – he reassured them that the Commission takes the issue of genocide denial very seriously.

**Town Day Review and Raffle Drawing** – commissioners gave a positive review of Town Day – were pleased with the attendance at our table – handouts were well received – there were nine winners of gift certificates donated by local restaurants – all have been notified.

### **Diversity Training**

Date set for Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM-4PM at the Robbins House – invitations have been extended – no definite count as yet – 30 attendees recommended for the presentation – logistics for the training day will be discussed at our next meeting.

**Networks and Coalitions** – NPFH – MAHRC - tabled until next meeting

### **Incidents and Complaints -**

**Menotomy Rocks Park** – civil rights violation – consensus that AHRC should take ‘*no action*’

**Great Meadows incident** – consensus that AHRC take ‘*no action*’ – except assuring that these type of incidents get cleaned up as soon as possible – Nancy Rhoads suggested the AHRC compose and laminate our own message and place it on all park billboards – Nancy Rhoads will follow up with the Parks and Recreation Committee for approval and express our willingness to work with them in this regard. A motion was made and seconded to support funding up to \$100 for printing and posting expenses – vote in favor of this motion was unanimous

**Complaint Regarding Brackett School Newsletter** – Investigatory subcommittee presented report. After discussion about whether this report was consistent with the requirements of Commission rules, in conjunction with the investigating committee the report was referred to the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee.

**Anti-Semitic Voice Mail Directed at Superintendent** - This incident was briefly discussed. The *Advocate* has picked up on our guest commentary for follow-up story.

**Subcommittee Reports -**

**Dialogue Committee** – Nancy Sweeney and Marylynn will work on flyer for mailing of calendar of events for the year.

**Policies and Procedures** – no report

**Schools** – no report

**Rapid Response/Publicity** – no report

**Other Business –**

**Resolution** – The chair distributed copies of a resolution regarding the Commission's previous endorsement of a formal standing relationship with the Anti-Defamation League and recent cases in which the ADL has avoided full recognition of the Armenian genocide – the resolution was discussed. Three amendments were offered, seconded, and passed: one by Commissioner Deshler, removing prescriptive language for alternatives to the No Place for Hate program; a second amendment by Commissioner Deshler, spelling out the Commission's right to revisit the decision in the event of a change in policy by the ADL; and a third amendment offered by Commissioner Cohen, inserting reference to the Human Rights Commission's founding bylaw. A motion was made and seconded to pass the resolution as amended – 9 commissioners voted for and 2 opposed.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded, voted on and passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by:*

*Marylynn Carnell*